

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 DRC-01 /104 W

----- 063828

R 071200Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3078

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1111

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: ANGLO-AMERICAN CORP ANNOUNCES R7 MILLION ACROSS-THE-BOARD
WAGE INCREASE FOR BLACK GOLD MINE WORKERS

REF: JOHANNESBURG A-51, JUNE 15, 1973; JOHANNESBURG A-93,
NOV 23, 1973

1. CONTINUING TO BENEFIT FROM HIGHER PRICES OF GOLD ON WORLD
MARKET, ANGLO-AMERICAN ANNOUNCED DEC 6 FOLLOWING UNPUBLICIZED
IN-HOUSE "COMMUNICATIONS EFFORT" AIMED AT AVOIDING REPETITION
OF CARLTONVILLE "MISUNDERSTANDING" ABOUT WAGE DIFFERENTIALS
THAT R7 MILLION INCREASE AMMOUNTING TO 10 CENT INCREASE PER
SHIFT OR R2.60 INCREASE PER MONTH FOR ANGLO'S APPROXIMATELY
110,000 BLACK UNDERGROUND GOLD MINE WORKERS WENT INTO EFFECT
DECEMBER 1.

2. BEGINNING RATE FOR INEXPERIENCED BLACK UNDERGROUND WORKERS
THUS IS NOW 90 CENTS PER SHIFT OR R32.40 PER MONTH (PLUS
HOUSING, FOOD AND OTHER BENEFITS) AND AVERAGE WAGE FOR BLACK
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UNDERGROUND WORKERS IS NOW R40 AS COMPARED WITH R32 FOLLOWING

PREVIOUS INCREASE OF 26PER CENT ANNOUNCED LAST MARCH.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENT REACHED IN JUNE WITH CHAMBER OF MINES AND ALL-WHITE MINEWORKERS UNION (A-51), NEW INCREASES ACCOMPANIED BY CHANGES IN WORK RULES AND JOB STRUCTURE WHICH WILL ENABLE EXPERIENCED BLACKS TO MOVE PROGRESSIVELY INTO HIGHER SKILLS AND WAGE CATEGORIES.

4. ACCORDING TO TUSCA GENERAL SECRETARY GROBBELAAR, DRAMATIC ANGLO WAGE INCREASES FOR BLACK MINE WORKERS AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY 70 PER CENT DURING PAST 18 MONTHS COULD INDUCE MORE LOCAL BLACKS TO SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN MINES AND THIS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE MINING INDUSTRY'S DEPENDENCE ON CONTRACT LABOR FROM OUTSIDE COUNTRY. FOLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOLD MINING, WAGE RATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973JOHANN01111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731238/aaaabcbw.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: JOHANNESBURG A-51, JUNE 15, 1973; JO, HANNESBURG A-93
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Oct-2001 by williad>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGLO-AMERICAN CORP ANNOUNCES R7 MILLION ACROSS-THE-BOARD WAGE INCREASE FOR BLACK GOLD MINE WORKERS
TAGS: ELAB, EMIN, SF, ANGLO-AMERICAN CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005